Meeting of State Governments on matters of Commerce and Industry

1853. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had recently convened a meeting with the State Governments on the matters concerning commerce & industry;

(b) if so, the details of the demands put forth by various State Governments;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government of Karnataka has indicated that it has prepared detailed report as per Central Government's guidelines on development of three clusters pertaining to Garment Industry at Bellary, foundary products at Belgaum and Cashew at Mangalore, which have great export potential; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the State Governments were consulted before preparation of the proposed draft scheme.

(c) Yes Sir. These proposals were sent to Ministry of Small Scale Industries by Karnataka Government. Now, the Government of Karnataka has informed us that they will be sending these proposals to Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

(d) Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme is being formulated by this Ministry. The scheme has been given 'in principle' approval by the Planning Commission. It is pending for final approval and as and when the Scheme is approved, the project proposal of Government of Karnataka will be examined.

Trade relations between India and USA

†1854. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the areas in which trade relations have been established between India and USA;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government have any proposal to expand trade relations with USA;

(c) if so, whether new areas have been identified for this purpose; and

(d) the steps being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The United States of America is India's largest trading partner and foremost export destination for Indian goods and services and also one of the major sources of foreign investment in India. The two-way trade structure comprises a large number of traditional and manufatured goods, which has also undergone changes over the years.

(b) to (d) Trade facilitation is a continuous and ongoing process. Efforts are regularly made to expand and diversify trade through various trade promotion measures. Information Technology, Biotechnology, High Technology Trade and other knowledge-based industries are a few new identified thrust areas.

Trade and Economic cooperation between India, Russia, China and Germany

1855. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether trade and economic cooperation between India, Russia, China and Germany have been on increase since the year 2002 onwards;

(b) if so, whether large number of joint project with Russia, China and Germany have been undertaken currently;

(c) whether the trade growth with Germany, China and Russia are continously improving and details of agreement signed with these countries;

(d) if so, what extent trade with these countries have been improving for the last three years; and

(e) to what extent the steps are being taken to improve the trade and economic relation with these countries further?